

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended. Claim 2 is cancelled. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, and 3-5 are pending in the present application.

Amended claim 1 is directed towards a, "carry bag comprising:

- a flexible outer wall,
- a flexible inner wall defining a receiving space and being sealed to the outer wall to form an inflatable volume therebetween,
- a valve in the inner or outer wall,
- a flexible rib extending longitudinally between said inner and outer walls,
- and
- an opening through which articles can be inserted/retrieved into/from the receiving space."

Support for this amendment can be found in the present specification. As described in paragraph 0021, the flexible rib of the inventive bag extends between the outer wall **11** and inner wall **12**. The specification further describes the flexible rib as having a pair of flanges **14** and being secured to walls **11** and **12** via plastics welding about the respective flange peripheries. (See paragraph 0021)

Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (US 6,167,613). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that Chen anticipates the present invention because the reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements as claimed. As discussed below, Chen lacks a flexible rib that extends longitudinally between the inner and outer walls of the bag as recited in amended claim 1 of the present application. As such, the Examiner's rejection cannot be properly maintained.

Chen teaches a carry bag having a flexible outer wall, a flexible inner wall, a valve, and a receiving space with surrounded by an inflatable volume. However, Chen fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the flexible ribs that extend longitudinally as recited in amended claim 1.

Amended claim 1 recites a carry bag having "a flexible rib extending longitudinally between said inner and outer walls." Because the Chen reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest this feature, amended claim 1 cannot be properly rejected as anticipated or obvious.

Claims 1-5 were rejected as being anticipated by Valdivielso (US 407,625). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that Valdivielso anticipates the present invention because the reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements as claimed. As discussed below, Valdivielso lacks a flexible rib that extends longitudinally between the inner and outer walls of the bag as recited in amended claim 1 of the present application. As such, the Examiner's rejection is improper.

Valdivielso teaches a carry bag having a flexible outer, a flexible inner wall defining a receiving space with an inflatable volume in-between. However, Valdivielso fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a flexible rib that extends longitudinally between said inner and outer walls of the carry bag. Contrary to the assertions of the Examiner, "the circumscribe rib below E" is not the same as the flexible rib of the present invention because the circumscribe rib of the reference is not positioned between the inner and outer walls of the carry bag.

As discussed above, amended claim 1 recites a carry bag having, "a flexible rib extending longitudinally between said inner and outer walls." Thus, because the Valdivielso reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest this feature amended claim 1 cannot be properly rejected as anticipated or obvious. Claims 3-5 depend from amended claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons set forth in support of amended claim 1.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by either Wang (2003/0155268) or Newman (US 6283296). Applicant respectfully

disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that these references anticipate the present invention because the references do not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of the present invention as claimed. Specifically, none of these references describe, teach or suggest a flexible rib that extends longitudinally between the inner and outer walls of a carry bag as recited in amended claim 1 of the present application. As such, the claim 1 cannot be properly rejected as anticipated or obvious.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (US 6167613) in view of Brockhaus (US 4679242) or Loque (US 4974761) or Vandewall (US 5395022).

As required by MPEP 2143 *et seq.* to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met:

- (1) There must be some suggestion or motivation to modify or combine the teachings of the references;
- (2) There must be some expectation of success;
- (3) The references when combined must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.


As already discussed above, the Chen reference does not disclose, suggest, or teach all of the elements of the carry bag of the present invention. And while the Brockhaus, Loque and/or Vandewall references may disclose various strap members having a pair of fasteners, the cited references do not disclose the features of the present invention that are missing from the Chen reference. Specifically, none of the cited references teach a flexible rib that extends longitudinally between the inner and outer walls of the carry bag. Because this feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested by any of the cited references, the combination of reference teachings do not achieve the present invention as claimed and therefore do not render the present invention obvious. For this reason, the Examiner's rejection should be withdrawn.

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For all the foregoing reasons, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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